花の慶次

6

松本次郎

原作・永井義男



カバーデザイン／塚越勇（遊デザイン室）



松本次郎

原作・永井義男

6

一撃必殺隊

人物紹介



前之助

薩摩藩士。伊牟田に可愛がられていたが死亡する。



伊牟田

化け物じみた強さを誇る剣士。勝手な行動を取ったことで粛清の憂き目に遭う。逃走中。



海江田

凄腕の薩摩藩士。伊牟田殺害を命じられる。仲間の犠牲もあり伊牟田を追い詰めるも翻意、江戸を去った。



相楽

不逞浪士を雇い、御用盗を指揮する。

千代松

伊興村出身。海江田率いる薩摩藩士に捕まり、自ら死を選ぶ。

梅吉

上谷塚村出身。馴染みの女郎・おたまを連れて脱走を企てるも捕縛。切腹する。

和三郎

大曽根村出身。

新平

花又村出身。金杉橋の闘いで戦死。

丑五郎

東一之江村出身。小柄な体から抜群の身体能力を誇り、頭の回転も速い。

市造

上小岩村出身。侍への憧れが人一倍強い。丑五郎とは犬猿の仲。

源治

小合新田出身。金杉橋の闘いで戦死。

米吉

鹿骨村出身。丑五郎の弟分で並々ならぬ巨軀の持ち主。大食漢。

仙太

戸ケ崎村出身。初陣で奮闘するも伊牟田の剛剣に倒れる。



勝海舟

旗本。百姓を組織化することを発案した。



島田幸之介

元新選組隊士。一撃必殺隊の訓練を担当する。



和田六郎

元新選組隊士。島田とともに隊士を鍛える。



与吉

一撃必殺隊隊士の世話をする下男。



お園

丑五郎の馴染みの女郎。

これまでのあらすじ

薩摩藩の援助により、江戸の治安を乱すべく商家を襲っていた「御用盗」を排除するために結成された「一撃必殺隊」。頑強な百姓から選抜された隊士達は、その恐るべき剛力と新選組仕込みの実戦剣術により御用盗を粉砕した。しかし薩摩藩に江戸での破壊工作を託されていた相楽総三は一撃必殺隊の正体を見抜き、反撃を開始する。戦死、捕縛、脱走……数を減らした一撃必殺隊は内部分裂を起こし、瓦解寸前の状態に陥る。ここが潮時と見た隊長・島田は最終作戦「相楽総三暗殺」を立案し、賭けに出る。作戦決行は昼間、人々で賑わう昼間の金杉橋が地獄と化す――!!

6

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コミック乱ツインズ「連載作品

SFX:
Oooooh

CHAPTER 34: THE BATTLE OF KANASUGI BRIDGE - FIVE

DON'T LET THE IN-SURGENT GET ANY CLOSER TO LORD SAGARA!

CUT HIM DOWN!

SFX:
Kieeee,
swish

SFX:
duck

OH NO...

Click

SFX: Ooooh

SFX: clatter

HAT-TORI...!

EN GUARDE!

SFX: eyes widen

SFX: thrust

CHIKO

AK!!

SFX: stomp, stagger

NU-OOO-OH!

LORD SAGA-RAAA!

SFX: crack, clack

HACHI-NETSU-JIGOKU-KEN!!!

TAKE THIS! SPECIAL TECH-NIQUE,

Click

SFX:
Bang

SFX: slam thump

SFX: clatter

ARE YOU INJURED...?

L-LORD SAGARA...

IS TO WAIT FOR THE ENEMY TO COME CLOSE, THEN PULL THE TRIGGER.

THE TRICK TO AIMING WITH THIS,

SFX: pouring rain

AH!

OPEN THE PATH!

MOVE IT, MOVE IIIIT!

SFX: rushing footsteps

SFX: whistle

THIS IS IT...

THIS WHIS-TLE...

MRH...

CAP-TURE HIM!

THE MAN WHO BLEW THE WHISTLE IS ALSO AN ACCOM-PLICE!

!

HEY, USHI...

IT'S THE SIGNAL FOR A RETREAT!

SFX: dash

DON'T LET HIM RUN!

TCH!

IF WE HANG AROUND HERE, WE'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT!

WE GOT THE SIGNAL! IT MEANS THAT THE SATSUMA'S REINFORCE-MENTS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SAYIN' THAT SORT OF THING, YOU IDIOT!

YOU'RE TELLIN' ME WE HAVE TO GO BACK BEFORE WE'VE CHOPPED THE LEADER'S HEAD OFF!?

HUH?

USHI, LOOK OVER THERE...

H-HEY.

YONE...!

SFX:
Huff, huff

SFX:
footsteps

THE GUY'S BARELY STAND-IN'.

THAT'S NOT GOOD...

YOU CAN'T CARRY HIM BY YOURSELF, I'LL COME AS WELL!

I'M GOIN' TO GRAB YONE, YOU GO AHEAD AND RUN, ICHI!

SFX:
dash

SFX:
bleargh

BIG BRO!

DON'T YOU COME ANY CLOS-ER!

THIS GUY'S ONE OF THE AT-TACKERS!

UH...

HOLD IT!

GOT IT!

KEEP GOING!

HIS STOMACH IS HANGING OUT, HE'LL DIE SOON!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!

SFX: dash

SFX: tug

SFX: struggling

STOP STRUG-GLING' BUDDY...

WHY DON'T YOU STAY AWHILE.

THIS GUY...!

HURGH!

SFX: thunk, stab

LET HIM GO!

BASTARD!

NOT YET!

GAH!

GRR!

SFX: Nuoryaaah, grab

SFX: thwack

DAMN YOU!

LET HIM GO!

SFX: grab

SFX: step

SFX: Nuoooh

おお、おお

HE'S TAKING US WITH HIM...!

DAMN IT...!

I'M COMIN' TO JOIN YOU!

YONEEEE!

CHIYO!



SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE WASHED UP ON THE SHORE!

INVESTI-GATE THE RIVER-SIDE!

YES-SIR!

WH-WHAT ON EARTH!?

HE JUST TOOK THREE OF US OFF THE BRIDGE WITH HIM!

WE'RE TAKIN' THIS CHANCE TO RUN, USHI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'!?

SFX: grab

YONE-KICHIII!

CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND THAT!?

DON'T WASTE YONE'S DETERMINA-TION!

LET GO... FUCK!

USHI!

LOOK, LORD SAGARA IS OVER THERE!

LET'S MOVE!

THE REST OF YOU FOLLOW ME!

SFX: bang, tock

!

A BUNCH OF THEM ARE COMING!

CRAP, HURRY UP!

SHIT!

SO THAT'S THE SAGARA WE'RE AFTER...

WE HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET!

WE'LL COME AND GET THAT HEAD OF YOURS SOON!

STOP THAT!

SFX: dash

SEIZE THEM!

TCH!

LEAVE THE CHASE TO THOSE BEHIND US!

WE, THE GUARDS, SHOULDN'T BE MOV-ING!

...GEN.

SHIN...

HAH

LET'S GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN', USHI!?

WH-WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS...

DON'T LET THEM RUN!

THERE ARE TWO OF THEM OVER THERE!

DAMNIT!

SFX: pouring rain

BRING SOME DOORS HERE TOO...!

I NEED HELP OVER HERE!

BRING THE ONES THAT CAN BE MOVED TO THE ESTATE!

T/N They're using sliding doors as stretchers, hence why they desire more doors.

SERVED WITH HONOUR UNTIL THE VERY END...

THAT THEIR SON HEIKU-ROU...

MY MOTHER AND FATHER... BACK AT HOME...

PLEASE... LET THEM KNOW...

STAY WITH ME...!

HEY...!

FLOP

HEIKU-ROU!

HEIKUROOOU!

SFX: puff puff

MY, MY.

MASU-MITSU?

SHE'D WASTE MANY YEARS MOURNING TO STAY FAITHFUL TO HIM?

IS IT TRUE THAT IF A WOMEN FROM YOUR HOME TOWN WERE TO LOSE HER HUSBAND,

IF WE CATCH THEM, WE MAY BE ABLE TO DEDUCE THE IDENTITY OF THE RING LEADER.

THEY HAVE ESCAPED, BUT WE ARE CURRENTLY TRACKING THE ATTACKERS.

IT'S HARD WATCHING HIM ACT LIKE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

ANYWAY, CAN SOMEONE DO SOMETHING ABOUT HATTORI CRYING OVER THERE?

THERE'S NO MEANING IN INVESTIGATING THE CRIMINALS.

DEAR LORD... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?

BUT SIR...

LET ME CUT MY STOMACH!

LET ME...!

SFX: Nuwaaah

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO LIVE!?

MY STUPID PLAN GOT SO MANY OF MY COMRADES KILLED IN VAIN WHILE I...

BECAUSE OF ME...

CALM YOURSELF, MR HATTORI!

WHAT WAS THAT?

I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE OF MUCH USE...

BUT... WELL...

REALLY?

THERE'S A REBEL WHO SURVIVED.

SIR EKIMITSU.

MY STOMAAACH!

SFX: Pouring rain

SFX: munch, munch

SFX: chew, chew

WITH THIS, MANY PEOPLE CAN BE SAVED!...

IT HEALS ALL MANNER OF WOUNDS VERY QUICKLY.

.....

SAMURAI MEAT TASTES PRETTY GREAT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING... YOU SHOULD EAT SOME TOO.

SFX: chew, chew

PEASANT.

Clack

SFX: wipe

SO PITIFUL...

THIS IS THE RESULT OF EXPERIENCING THE KILLING OF HUMANS.

LOSING HIS HUMANITY, HE'S BEEN REDUCED TO A DEMONIC BEAST...

REST IN PEACE!

THE REBELS SHOULD STILL BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE!

NO MATTER WHAT, THEY MUST BE FOUND AND CAUGHT!

SHIT, CAN'T GO THIS WAY EITHER!

SEARCH EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY!

SFX: footsteps

HI- HIIIH!

WAIT... DON'T YELL OUT!

UH!

AH...!

HEY USHI, IN HERE!

WE CAN GO IN!

SHIT!

MUR- DERER!

HEEELP!

SFX: dash

HIIH...!

SFX: slide, bang

AS LONG AS YOU'RE QUIET YOU'LL BE SAFE!

D-DON'T MAKE A SOUND!

E'RE NO
ONNA' DO
NOTHIN'!

EEP IT
WIN!

Tug

CHAPTER 35: ESCAPE

STAY QUIET, UNDER-
ND?!

EEK!

JUST LET US STAY HERE AWHILE!

IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE BIT!

SFX: clatter

HERE THEY COME!

THOSE SATSUMA BASTARDS!

FIND THEM!

THIS WAY!

SFX: splash

WE'LL PAY YOU PROPERLY!

DON'T WORRY!

WE'LL ATTRACT TOO MUCH ATTENTION COVERED IN BLOOD!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHIN' WE CAN CHANGE INTO?!

HERE!

SFX: cling

Glare

KYAAA

AAH!

WHAT WAS THAT?

HM?

SFX: bite

DON'T FUCKIN' SHOUT LIKE THAT!

YOU IDIOT!

SFX: muffle

OKINU!

SOMEONE HELP!

OUCH!

SFX: crash

SFX:
SLASH

SFX:
crumple

SFX: clatter

M-MURDERER!

OKI-NU!

O-

SFX: stab

BLEARGH!

STOP THAT!

SFX: crack, crash

OVER HERE!

THEY'RE IN THIS ROW HOUSE!

SFX: fall

Flop

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!

HEY!

YOU CAN'T JUST GO KILLIN' RANDOM CIVILIANS!

ICHI, WE'RE NOT THE FUCKIN' SATSUMA!

SHIT!

.....

WE'RE IN THIS MESS TO BEGIN WITH 'CAUSE OF YOU, USHI!

HAAH? WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?!

IT'S 'CAUSE WE WENT OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY AND STARTED KILLIN' EACH OTHER IN THE STREET!

W- WHAT WAS THAT?!

AND MADE US CUT PEOPLE DOWN IN THE OPEN!

.....

HE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT WE'D BE AMONGST A CROWD...

IT'S 'CAUSE YOU PUT THAT IDEA IN SHIMADA'S HEAD!

DON'T MAKE NEW EXCUSES!

I-I DIDN'T THINK THE BRIDGE WOULD BE THAT BUSY...

SFX:
bang x3

REFUSE AND YOU'LL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT!

ANYONE INSIDE MUST EXIT IMMEDIATELY!

SFX:
bang x3

WE'RE RATS IN A TRAP...

WHAT'S THE PLAN, USHI?!

THEY'RE HERE!

Click

SFX: lift

READY WHEN YOU ARE!

WE'RE CHARGING IN!

ALRIGHT, WE'RE BREAKING DOWN THE DOOR!

SFX: WHAM

SFX: crack

YEAH!

WE'LL TAKE 'EM DOWN ONE BY ONE!

THEY WON'T ALL ENTER AT ONCE!

SFX: pant x2

THE FUN'S JUST STARTIN'!

GYA-HAHA!

I WONDER HOW MANY I CAN SLAUGHTER WITH JUST ONE SWORD?!

SFX: crack

I'M GONNA SEND EVERYONE STRAIGHT TO HELL!

SHIT...

DEFINITE-
LY BEEN
CURSED.

I'VE...

YOU SAY
SOMETHIN'?

HUH?

HOLD IT
RIGHT
THERE!

WHO ARE YOU LOT?

WHO...

THE SHINCHOU-GUMI!

WE'RE THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE DEFENCE OF EDO,

ACTING AS YOU PLEASE?!

ON WHOSE AUTHORITY ARE YOU PEOPLE...

ARE YOU THOSE COWARDS FROM SHOUNAI?!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?

LEAVE THIS MATTER IN OUR HANDS AND RETURN TO YOUR RESIDENCE ON STANDBY!

THE DUTY OF CRIMINAL PURSUIT LIES WITH US!

TN: For further information, search "Tsuruoka Domain" on Wikipedia

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO GIVE US ORDERS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE EMPEROR BACK IN CHARGE!

IF YOU IGNORE US, WE WILL HAVE TO RESTRAIN YOU FIRST!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

THE SATSUMA AREN'T COMING IN.

W-WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN A WORLD OF HURT!

SFX: CHAA-ARGE

YOU MAY DISPOSE OF ANYONE WHO FIGHTS BACK!

ARREST THEM ALL!

SFX: clatter x2

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO!

BRING IT ON!

SFX: Hya Clash Slice Woosh Swing

SFX: sounds of battle

BUT NOW'S THE TIME TO RUN!

I... DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

WE GOTTA GO!

SFX: sounds of battle

SFX: wind howling

ARE THE SATSUMA AFTER US?

SO?

NO... IT'LL BE BETTER IF WE WAIT AND SEE.

SHOULD WE GO BACK TO THE ESTATE?

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE OKAY FOR A BIT.

NO...

EVEN LORD SHIMADA WOULD CONFESS IF HE HAD TO DEAL WITH TORTURE.

WHA-

LORD SHIMADA MIGHT'VE BEEN CAPTURED AND TOLD THEM WHERE IT IS.

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO SURPRISE THEM DURING THE DAY... IT'S TOO HARD TO RUN WHEN THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE.

IT'S GOIN' EXACTLY LIKE LORD WADA SAID.

THIS IS BAD...

THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDIN' IF THEY'RE JUST GONNA CARRY ON LIKE BEFORE.

EVEN IF IT'S NOT THE SATSUMA, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER BASTARDS WHO SEE US AND TELL THEM.

IT'S NOT BREAKIN' THE RULES IF WE HAVE TO DO IT, IT'S BESIDES... BETTER THAN BEING CAUGHT.

HUH? BUT ISN'T THAT BREAKIN' THE RULES?

GETTIN' OUT OF THE CITY?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT...

Sidenote
Refer to Volume 1 "One Strike, One Kill Squad".

RIHACHI... YOU MEAN *THAT* RIHACHI?

I KNOW RIHACHI'S VILLAGE ISN'T THAT FAR FROM HERE.

YEAH, THE GUY WHO GOT HIMSELF HURT DURING TRAINING THAT LORD SHIMADA SENT HOME!

WE'RE LEAVING THE SWORDS?!

LET'S HIDE THE KATANAS OVER THERE.

THEY STAND OUT...

WE SHOULD DISGUISE WHO WE ARE.

YOU SHOULD UNTIE YOUR HAIR TOO.

I SEE... WITH OUR LEGS WE'LL GET THERE WITHIN HALF A DAY.

HUH?

LOOK, YOU'RE BLEEDIN' UNDER YOUR ARM.

THERE MIGHT BE SOME MEDICINE WE CAN GET AT THE VIL-LAGE.

WE NEED TO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR.

BESIDES, YOU'RE INJURED...

AN INJURY LIKE THIS?

HEH!

WHO CARES ABOUT...

SFX: birds tweeting

SFX: footsteps

NO ONE WILL SEE US ALL THE WAY OUT HERE!

HEHEH!

SFX: crunch x2 (of dirt and leaves)

EVERYTHIN' SEEMS SO EASYGOIN'.

ONCE YOU LEAVE THE CITY...

SFX: crunch

WE'D JUST GET OLDER DOIN' NOTHIN' SPECIAL...

AND EVEN-TUALLY KICK THE BUCKET...

IF WE JUST STAYED HERE BEIN' PEASANTS...

WE'RE DIFFER-ENT!

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, COMPARED TO EVERYONE ELSE,

ONCE HE HEARS THAT WE BECAME SAMURAI AND WENT WILD IN THE CITY...

THAT BASTARD, RIHACHI.

RESPECT-ED THE SAMURAI WAY MORE THAN THE OTHERS...

SINCE RIHACHI...

THE STORIES WILL SOUND LIKE A DREAM.

FOR A GUY SENT HOME FROM A TRAINING INJURY...

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT...

WHAT KINDA FACE IS HE GONNA MAKE?

WE'LL SHOW HIM!

HE WAS SO COCKY JUST BECAUSE HE WAS A LITTLE STRONGER THAN US AT SUMO!

SFX: Gyaha-haha

GET AWAY FROM HERE !!!

BIG BRO!

SFX: Jerk Flap

HEY, USHI!

SFX: flutter flutter

HUH?

WELL...

WHY ARE YOU IGNORIN' ME?!

ARE YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?!

SFX: grin

YEAH.

SO HE'LL PROBABLY JUST BE HAPPY TO SEE US, RIGHT?

W-WHILE THAT'S TRUE, RIHACHI'S STILL A GOOD GUY...

LET'S GO SEE THAT BASTARD'S FACE!

ALRIGHT, PICK UP THE PACE!

SFX: caw x2

WHA...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

HE HASN'T BEEN BACK HOME SINCE!

OUR RIHACHI SAID HE GOT A JOB AS A LABORER AND LEFT!

WHY HASN'T HE COME HOME?

W- WHAT'S GOING ON?

.....

NO WAY...

WHAT DO YOU DO?!

ANSWER ME!

WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU PEOPLE?!

ARE YOU REALLY LABOR-ERS?!

Y-
YEAH!

WHAAAAT? YOU SAID YOU'RE SAMU-RAAAI?!

WE CAN'T SAY MUCH BUT... IT'S SOMETHIN' WE HAVE TO DO AS SAMURAI!

W-WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A REAL IMPORTANT JOB TO DO!

WHY ARE YOU HOLDIN' A SCYTHE?

YOU GONNA CUT SOME GRASS?

W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?!

YOU'RE PROBABLY HIDIN' RIHACHI SOME-WHERE!

YOU'RE JUST FOXES DISGUISIN' YOURSELVES, AREN'T YOU!?

AS IF THERE ARE SAMURAI AS DIRTY AS YOU!

SFX: shake x3

TELL ME NOW!

WATCH IT!

GAH!

WHERE'S RIHACHI?!

SFX: swing x2

AHHH!

STOP RUNNING!

SFX: crack, clatter, run

SFX: wind howling

WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?!

NOT ONLY THAT... IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT OLD HAG RECEIVED ANY OF RIHACHI'S MONEY...

THAT BASTARD WOULDN'T JUST DIE FROM AN INJURY LIKE THAT!

WHY HASN'T RIHACHI COME HOME?!

DID HE LIE TO US?!

SHIMADA SAID THAT AFTER HE SAW A DOCTOR, RIHACHI WOULD BE PAID AND SENT HOME!

IF HE WAS PLANNIN' ON FOOLIN' US THEN I WON'T LET HIM OFF EASY!

AND HAVE HIM TELL US!

IF THAT'S TRUE, WE'VE GOTTA FIND HIM...

THEN WHAT DO WE DO?!

CALM DOWN, ICHI-ZOU.

UH.

WE'D JUST GET OUR-SELVES KILLED.

BRUTE FORCE?

HOW ARE YOU GONNA GET HIM TO CON-FESS?

IT'S YOKICHI!

YOU IDIOT, WADA BIT THE DUST ON THE BRIDGE!

THERE'S SOMEONE OTHER THAN SHIMADA WHO KNEW WHAT WAS GOIN' ON.

WE'RE GONNA ASK THEM.

BASTARD DEFINITELY KNOWS SOMETHIN'.

THE ONE WHO WAS MEANT TO TAKE CARE OF RIHACHI WAS THE SERVANT YOKICHI.

HUH?

WE'LL GRAB HIM WHILE HE'S OUT SHOPPIN' AND MAKE HIM SPILL IT ALL.

IF SHIMADA IS SAFE THEN YOKICHI SHOULD BE AT THE BASE AS USUAL.

WE'LL HEAD BACK TO TOWN FIRST THING IN THE MORNIN'...

CHAPTER 36: SWORD

JUST BOUGHT 'EM FROM A FISHERMAN DOWN AT THE BEACH.

GOT SOME FRESHLY CAUGHT GIZZARD SHAD.

PR/N: Gizzard shad is a type of herring.

THANK YOU!

IF YOU GET SOMETHIN' ELSE, LET ME KNOW.

HEHEHE, MR. YOKICHI. BIGHEARTED AS ALWAYS.

KEEP THE CHANGE.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. AFTER ALL, THIS ISN'T MY MONEY.

NEWS-PAPER HERE!

NEWS-PAPER!

SEEMS LIKE A BUNCH OF INNO-CENTS GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT AND DIED.

WHY START A FIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY WHEN THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND?

THE BRIDGE?

THIS TIME A GROUP OF SATSUMA WERE AT-TACKED ON KANASUGI BRIDGE!

THIS IS CRAZY.

IF IT'S THEM THEN THEY'RE JUST AS BAD AS THE SATSUMA.

NO CLUE...

REALLY?!

THE TILE BLOCK PRINT'S SAYIN' IT'S THAT POO SQUAD FROM BEFORE.

SOUNDS GOOD.

BEST THING TO DO IS TO DRINK AND SLEEP IN.

IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO WORK HARD TOWARDS A FUTURE LIKE THIS.

GOD HELP US.

MORE FOLKS LIKE THAT ARE GONNA KEEP POPPIN' UP NOW.

HELLO, SIR!

AU

COMPARED TO MY HUSBAND, SURE.

APPARENTLY THE SATSUMA MEN ARE QUITE GOOD LOOKING.

Toot~

SFX: Kyaha haha

WOAH!

WHAT THE HELL DID YA JUST SAY??

SFX: grab

SFX:
rushing
river

JUST FORK OVER YOUR STUFF!

P- PLEASE STOP!

W- WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!

WE HAVEN'T EATEN IN TWO DAYS!

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

SFX:
scatter

SFX: chomp x2, tear x3

WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?

HUH?

JUST LET ME GO!

IF YOU ONLY WANT FOOD, YOU CAN HAVE IT!

SFX: rummage, munch x2

DID YOU FORGET ABOUT US, YOKICHI?

IT'S US, IT'S US.

SFX: pick, tear

SFX: lick x2

IS HE BACK?

WHERE'S SHIMA-DA?

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

USHI-GOROU AND... ICHI-ZOU...

HE LEFT NOT LONG AGO, SAYIN' HE'D BE BACK IN THE EVENIN'.

L-LORD SHIMADA RETURNED FIRST THING IN THE MORNIN'...

W-WELL...

ANSWER US!

WHERE IS HE?!

SFX: chomp x2

HE'S A SHREWD FUCKIN' GUY.

THAT BASTARD, SOUNDS LIKE HE'S FINE...

SFX: crack

YOU KNOW ANY-THIN'?

WHAT HAPPENED TO RIHA-CHI?

I'VE GOT ONE QUESTION.

HEY, YOKICHI.

UH...

.....

I WAS SO BUSY I CAN'T REMEMBER EVERY LITTLE THING...

OH... THERE WAS SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT...

YOU TOOK HIM BACK TO HIS VILLAGE AFTER HE SAW A DOCTOR WITH YOU!

RIHA-CHI?

SFX: munch x2, step

I RE-MEMBER, I RE-MEMBER!

WAIT, WAIT!

I SWEAR THAT'S IT!

THAT IT?

I-I GAVE HIM HIS MONEY AND MEDICINE, THEN SENT HIM HOME!

WELL, SPIT IT OUT.

SFX: yank

SFX: squeeeeze

WHY DON'T YOU EXPLAIN WHY RIHACHI DIDN'T GO BACK TO HIS VILLAGE?!

DON'T FUCK WITH US!

GRR... GAH!

SHUT UP! YOU'RE TOO LOUD!

THEN STOP STANDIN' AROUND AND COVER HIS MOUTH!

HE'S A FUCKIN' LIAR! WE'LL SQUEEZE THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM!

PULL HIS SHOULDER OUT!

WHAT...

WE'RE GONNA...

TAKE THIS!

HERE WE GO!

FINE!

SFX: wrap

SFX: crunch

IF YOU WANNA CONFESS, NOD YOUR HEAD!

HOW'S THAT, YOKICHI?!

MM-MMM!

BACK OFF, USHI!

W-WAIT A SECOND, ICHI! CALM DOWN!

ALRIGHT, NOW THE OTHER ARM!

SFX: huff x2

WHAT!

GUH.

OUT OF MY WAY!

SFX: shove, crack

RA-AAH!

SO WHAT?! WE SHOULD BE CRACKIN' THIS BASTARD'S NECK TOO!

IF YOU KEEP GOIN' HE WON'T BE ABLE TO CONFESS!

CUT IT OUT!

SFX: grab

I DON'T KNOW!

IF HE DIES HOW ARE YOU GOIN' TO GET ANY INFO?!

DOESN'T MATTER!

IF YOU DO THAT HE'LL DIE!

SFX: huff x2

I... ONLY SAW.

HUH?

WAS KILLED...

BY LORD SHIMADA.

R-RIHACHI...

SFX: rushing water

THAT'S ALL I KNOW...

I... DID AS I WAS TOLD AND PASSED THE BAMBOO WRAPPED CORPSE TO SOME CARRIERS...

HE'S LIKELY BEEN THROWN INTO THE SEA... OR BURIED IN THE MOUN-TAINS.

WHAT?!

I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE... BUT IT'S PROBABLY BETTER THAT WAY...

THE PLAN WAS NEVER FOR THE PEASANTS TO LIVE.

THEY SAID THEY'D MAKE US SAMURAI!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?!

WE CAN'T MAKE MONEY UNLESS YOU TAKE SOME RISKS.

I'M THE SAME AS YOU...

HEY, ICHI! STOP THAT!

YOU BASTARD, YOU'VE BEEN LYIN' TO US!

I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A CHANCE TO DO THE SAME!

I-IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, THEN RUN AWAY!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

AT THIS RATE WE'RE GONNA GET KILLED TOO.

WE CAN'T WASTE OUR TIME WITH HIM.

THAT'S ENOUGH. SHUT UP, ICHI!

YOU ASSHOLE! YOU LET RIHACHI DIE AND NOW YOU WANT TO RUN?!

HUH?

I'M NOT GOIN' BACK THERE.

JUST LET ME... GO BACK HOME...

I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOU.

HEY... I BEG YOU, ICHIZOU...

PLEASE...!

WITHOUT ME THEY'LL STARVE.

I'VE GOT FIVE KIDS TO FEED.

THAT IS, IF YOU CAN USE THOSE ARMS TO SWIM.

IF YOU WANT TO GO HOME THEN DO IT.

ISN'T THIS GOOD ENOUGH?!

SHUT UP, I GET IT.

ICHIZOU, LET HIM GO!

WAH-

SFX: splash

LEAVE HIM, USHI!

DON'T SAVE HIM!

HE'S THE TYPE WHO'LL DO ANYTHIN' FOR HIS KIDS!

WE CAN'T TRUST HIM BECAUSE HE HAS A FAMILY!

IF YOU'RE CARELESS YOU'LL DROWN TOO!

IT'S A SMALL RIVER, BUT THE CURRENT'S FAST!

UGH.

LET GO OF ME!

WE HAD NO CHOICE!

YOKICHI!

WHA-

WAAH!

SFX: rushing river

I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENIN' ANYMORE!

SHIT!

SHIT!

SHIT!

SHIT!

HE MIGHT BE AN IDIOT AND SHITTY WITH WOMEN, BUT HE WOULDN'T DO SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS...!

E-EVEN ICHIZOU!

T-THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE TURNIN' INSANE!

HOLD ON... HE MIGHT.

IF IT'S ICHIZOU, I THINK HE WAS LIKE THIS FROM THE START...

HEY!

W- WHAT'S UP ICHI- ZOU...?

SHUT UP!

THAT'S A LOTTA BLOOD, ICHI!

HUFF.

HUFF.

HUFF.

THERE'S SOMETHIN' WE HAVE TO DO FIRST, USHI!

BUT...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME, IDIOT!

ANYWAY, WE SHOULD GET TO A DOCTOR SOON...

THE SWORDS WE HID.

HUH?

WE'RE GETTIN' THOSE SWORDS.

THAT BASTARD, SHIMADA!

WE'RE GONNA KILL...

THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS HIDE SOMEWHERE AND WAIT FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE!

EITHER WAY, WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?!

YOU THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO TAKE ON SHIMADA IN THAT STATE?!

OUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER!

WE CAN'T FIGHT SHIMADA NOW!

ICHI-ZOU...

SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A COWARD, USHI?!

AREN'T YOU FRUS-TRATED?!

HOW MANY HAVE WE KILLED?!

HOW MANY HAVE DIED?!

LOOK, JUST LISTEN TO ME...

THE DEAD ARE GONNA HAUNT US!

IF WE TURN TAIL AND RUN HERE...

WE'RE NEITHER SAMURAI NOR COW-ARDS.

IT'S NOT THAT.

I'M NOT A COWARD!

I'M SAMU-RAI!

CHIPPED AND BENT SO MUCH WE CAN'T GO BACK IN THE SHEATHE.

WE'RE SWORDS THAT HAVE BEEN THROWN AWAY,

ARE SWORDS MEANT TO BE THROWN AWAY!

WE, THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD,

WELL, THAT'S NOT BAD.

HEH.

BEING A SWORD ISN'T BAD.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'?!

SHUT UP!

IF YOU WANNA RUN YOU CAN RUN BY YOURSELF!

STOP SPEWIN' STUPID STUFF AND COME WITH ME!

I'LL REGRET IF I DON'T GET TO AT LEAST CHOOSE...

THE LAST PERSON I CUT DOWN!

EVEN IF I'M MEANT TO BE THROWN AWAY...

I CAN STILL KILL ONE MORE PERSON!

I'LL SAY IT ONCE MORE, USHI!

I CAN STILL FIGHT! I WON'T LOSE!

IT'S BETTER THAN BEIN' A PEASANT!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEIN' A SWORD?!

AM I WRONG?!

ズル..

チャ

ドン

SFX:
squelch,
drag

NOW *THAT'S* DISTURB-ING.

WHY'S A DRENCHED PROSTI-TUTE...

WALKIN' ABOUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY?

HA

HA

HA

HA

THANKS TO THEM, IT STILL FEELS SORE.

Crack

BUT ONE NEVER QUITE GETS USED TO HAVING THEIR SHOULDER DISLOCAT-ED...

ズル

DO MY WORK FOR ME...

IT'S EASIER FOR ME IF THE PEAS-ANTS...

SINCE THEY ARE BORROWING THE GROUNDS FROM THE CHILD OF A GOOD FRIEND OF OUR LORD'S...

I SHOULD GO BACK TO THE ESTATE AND TIDY UP...

NOW THEN...

I CANNOT BE A HASSLE TO THEM.

Tap

RELATED TO THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD.

WE MUST ERASE ANY AND ALL EVI-DENCE...

UNIT COL-OURS,

SAMU-RAI,

PEAS-ANTS,

ALL OF IT.

WEA-PONRY,

NOTES,

Note. "Vain Dream of Wealth and Splendour": A proverb about the fickle nature of life

A VAIN DREAM OF WEALTH AND SPLENDOR.

THEY CERTAINLY HAD...

SFX: The loose hair on the pillow-

SFX: I will give to you - hohoho

WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMIN' TO?

JEEZ...

CHAPTER 37: MOLE



YOUR PULSE HAS GOTTEN STRONGER...

HMM...

THE RAIN'S STOPPED...

IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE FOR AN AVERAGE MAN TO DIE FROM THIS.

BUT... YOUR WOUND HASN'T HEALED AND IS STILL BLEEDING HEAVILY.

THIS MAY ONLY OFFER YOU PEACE OF MIND, BUT...

HERE'S SOME HERBAL MEDICINE TO PREVENT INFECTION. USE IT.

IT COULD BE.

IS IT FATAL?

TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.

THIS IS ALL THE MONEY I'VE GOT.

YOU SHOULD JUST REST

FOR NOW.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

THIS IS BETTER THAN ME TIPPING OFF THE SATSUMA,

.....

WELL, THANK YOU

TRYING TO THREATEN ME?

HEH.

DAMN QUACK.

THANKS TO THAT, A LARGE NUMBER OF ONLOOKERS WERE KILLED ALONGSIDE THOSE ACTUALLY INVOLVED.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WAS A FIGHT NEAR THE SATSUMA RESIDENCE ON KANASUGI BRIDGE THE DAY BEFORE...

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A FLASHY BRAWL HAPPENING IN BROAD DAYLIGHT BEFORE.

NOW'S THE BEST TIME TO RUN.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT IN THE BEST OF SHAPE, BUT...

YOU NEED TO LEAVE EDO NOW.

SOME ADVICE, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE,

IT'S A NICE HIDEOUT, BUT EVENTUALLY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO COME BY.

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS A STORAGE ROOM RENTED BY PEASANTS FOR THEIR WARES.

Creak

TAKE CARE ♡

WHAT TO DO?

NOW,

ｷ ｷ ｷ...

SFX: Chirp, Chirp Chirp

SFX: huff x2

NO... THAT MAN'S CLEVER... HE DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE ESCAPED.

USHIGOROU PROBABLY DIED ON KANASUGI BRIDGE.

IT'S BARELY ENOUGH TO GIVE ME ANY PEACE OF MIND.

TCH, JUST A SALVE...

WILL MY BODY HOLD OUT 'TIL THEN?

EITHER WAY, FINDING HIM WILL TAKE TIME.

スル

スル

SFX: unwrap

IF IT HIT MY STOMACH, IT MEANS NOTHING.

NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU STITCH THE WOUND,

SFX: huff x2

!

SFX: clatter

WHO'S THERE?!

SFX: chink, stomp

Clink

I HAVE NO NAME OR TITLE, SO DON'T BOTHER ASKING,

SO THERE'S NO USE IN SEEKING MY IDENTITY.

!

I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY.

DON'T PANIC.

I WANT US TO FORM A UNITED FRONT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY YOU'RE NOT MY ENEMY?

SO YOU'RE A SPY...

EXPLAIN!

WELL, SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

YOU WILL DIE.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE...

THAT WOUND IS DEEP. THE TREATMENT BY THAT QUACK WON'T SAVE YOU.

AND ONE MORE THING...

USHI-GOROU.

.....

IS ONE AND THE SAME.

THE PREY THAT YOU AND I ARE LOOKING FOR...

YOU MAY GET THE CHANCE TO PERSONALLY CUT THEM DOWN.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S YOU OR I WHO HUNTS DOWN THE PREY.

THE SMALL DETAILS DON'T CONCERN ME.

LEAVE THE PLANNING TO ME.

AND HOW WILL I DO THIS?

Whoosh

WHAT'S THIS?

THE PAIN WILL DISAPPEAR AND YOU'LL RECOVER YOUR ENERGY AND VITALITY RIGHT AWAY.

THAT QUACK'S SALVE IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS.

MEDI-CINE.

I DON'T HAVE FREE TIME TO PREPARE POISON FOR A COMRADE THAT WILL DIE ANYWAY.

DON'T WORRY.

SFX: flutter

IT'LL LAST TWO TO THREE DAYS.

A GIFT FROM ME TO YOU.

I DON'T THINK IT'LL GO AS YOU PLANNED.

WILL IT GO THAT WELL?

IT ALL LIES AT THE WHIM OF PUPPETEERS CONTROLLING EVERYONE BEHIND THE SCENES LIKE THEY'RE DOLLS IN A PLAY.

MOST ARE JUST LIKE YOU. NONE OF YOU KNOW A THING.

YOU UNDER-STAND NOTHING.

WHAT?

NONE OF YOU QUESTION A THING.

ADMIRE IDEAS AND DESIGNS CREATED BY THEM,

AND PROSTRATE YOURSELVES BEFORE THEIR AUTHORITY.

YOU COMPLY WITH THE RULES MADE BY THEM,

AND THE FUTURE.

BOTH THE PAST...

I SEE THROUGH EVERY-THING.

IT IS EXTREMELY EASY TO CONTROL SUCH PEOPLE.

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

YOU'RE JUST A PERSON WHO SCORNS THOSE AROUND YOU AND HIDES IN THE SHADOWS!

SHUT UP!

IF YOU'RE ANGRY THEN WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT BACK A BIT?

I AM WELL BEYOND THE UNDER-STANDING OF SOME-ONE LIKE YOU...

YOU WORM!

SFX: bang

SFX:
crash,
stomp

GAH!

カハ

GRR...!

SFX: clatter

UGH!

Sting...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

EVEN WITH MY MEDICINE, YOUR BODY WON'T HOLD UP.

DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY.

SFX: stagger

HAHAHAHAHAH.

IT'S THE ONLY PERK OF THIS JOB AFTER ALL.

I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT.

...BASTARD!

ESSENTIALLY... THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD THAT MY LORD HAS BESTOWED ON ME HAS LOST HALF OF THEIR MEMBERS, WADA ROKUROU INCLUDED.

I WILL NOW CONVEY THE FAILURES CONCERNING THE SAGARA ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT...

BECAUSE OF THIS, THE NEWS DISTRIBUTORS ARE PUBLISHING MESSAGES SYMPATHETIC TO THE SATSUMA.

A LARGE NUMBER OF CITIZENS WERE SWEPT UP IN THE BATTLE AND LOST THEIR LIVES.

I HAVE EXPLOITED YOUR KINDNESS!

UM... WELL, LOOK...

I WILL ACCEPT ANY SENTENCE YOU FEEL IS APPROPRIATE, EVEN IF IT IS DEATH.

I, SHIMADA KOUNOSUKE, TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS.

IT WAS THE HEIGHT OF RECKLESSNESS TO FIGHT THE ENEMY WHILE YOU WERE STILL SEEKING REINFORCEMENTS FOR US.

.....

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SO BUSY, YOUR WILLINGNESS TO DEVELOP THE SQUAD WAS INDISPENSABLE TO US.

IMMENSELY.

I REGRET MY ACTIONS...

LOOK.

WELL... UM,

I GAVE YOU THE GO AHEAD IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IT IS WHAT IT IS.

IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD TIME TO HAVE THE SQUAD DISBAND.

THINGS HAVE CHANGED NOW.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A BIT HARD TO REBUILD THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD.

ONCE YOU'VE SPOKEN WITH THEM, HAVE THEM SENT BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES.

GIVE THE ONES WHO'VE LIVED THEIR REWARD... DOUBLE THE AMOUNT WE OFFERED AT THE START...

THEN...

YES.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, FARM WORK IS FARM WORK.

IT'S OBVIOUSLY THE BEST THING FOR THEM.

RATHER THAN BEING SAMURAI, I'M SURE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT WORKING THE FIELDS IS WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO DO.

THEY WERE ORIGINALLY SIMPLE PEASANTS AFTER ALL. LET THEM GO HOME...

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK HERE?

THAT'S RIGHT.

Clink

THAT BEING SAID, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO LOOK FOR A NEW PERSON TO REPLACE YOU.

I'M SURE A CAPABLE PERSON LIKE YOU WILL WANT TO LOOK FOR A NEW APPOINTMENT SOON.

I'LL GIVE YOU A MONTH OFF TOO, SO DO AS YOU LIKE.

WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO THE VILLA AND SORT OUT YOUR AFFAIRS?

IT'S GOOD TO GO SLAP YOUR WIFE'S ASS AND HAVE A LITTLE FUN ONCE IN A WHILE.

I KNOW, WHY NOT VISIT YOUR HOME?

HAH.

MINE WILL BARELY LET ME KISS HER, LET ALONE SLAP HER ASS.

BWAHA HAHA HA!

I DO HAVE ONE.

YES.

HAVE A WIFE?

DO YOU...

YOU HAVE MY GRATI-TUDE.

I SEE...

THAT'S GOOD.

ISN'T IT?

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A PLACE TO GO HOME TO...

SFX:
caw, caw

SFX:
caw

WHAT AM I, AN OLD FART AT A BATH HOUSE SPOUTING NONSENSE?

I'M AN IDIOT.

WHAT AM I DOING, TALKING ABOUT SLAPPING HIS WIFE'S ASS...

JUST A FEW PEOPLE.

DON'T PANIC AFTER KILLING...

SHIMADA SHOULD'VE KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

HONESTLY, I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THEY'D TRY TO KILL SAGARA ON A BRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

STILL, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD MEANS ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT.

HE'S ALSO NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO TAKE ACTION WITHOUT TAKING THE CONSE-QUENCES INTO ACCOUNT.

WHILE HE'S NOT THE SORT OF GUY TO DIRECTLY DISOBEY ME,

IT WOULD BE DANGER-OUS TO KEEP A BASTARD LIKE THAT NEARBY.

ON TOP OF THAT HE NEVER SHOWS ANY EMOTION.

I'VE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING.

I CAN'T SEE HIM ANYMORE.

I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT HE'LL DO AFTER ALL.

IT'S MY FAULT FOR UNDERESTI-MATING HIM FOR BEING A SHINSENGUMI WARRIOR...

UP TO SHIMA-DA...

IT'S ALL...

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED ANYWAY...

THIS IS IT...

AFTER ALL, HE'S A PRETTY SHARP MAN...

CAN'T HIDE WHAT HE'S THINKING, CAN HE...?

THE LORD REALLY...

SFX: step x2

AT BEST, HE'LL CONTACT ME VIA LETTER AND SEND ME ON A MISSION SOMEWHERE.

I DOUBT HE WANTS TO SEE ME AGAIN.

IF I THINK BACK ON IT...

WHAT SHOULD I DO FROM HERE...

FROM THE LORD'S POINT OF VIEW, I ONLY MANAGED TO GET OVER ONE OF THE COUNTLESS HURDLES.

IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO INTERVIEW ME TOWARDS THE END, DESPITE IT BEING FUTILE.

NO, TO RETURN AFTER RESIGNING TO TAKE PART IN THIS ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

SFX: splash

I'LL GO TO THE CAPITAL AND REJOIN THE SHINSEN-GUMI...

DON'T FALL FOR IT.

WHY DID HE MENTION ANY OF IT?

THE LORD RECOMMENDED I GO HOME, BUT... I DON'T KNOW...

WHAT WILL GOING BACK HOME DO?

THAT WAS BY DESIGN.

IT COULD HAVE JUST BEEN A FUN CONVERSATION BUT...

IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO RETURN TO BASE, EVEN JUST TO COLLECT MY EFFECTS.

IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO LEAVE EDO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

INDEED A TRAP.

THIS IS...

SFX: birds crying

DO I LEAVE HIM BE?

WHAT IF HE'S WAITING FOR ME BACK AT BASE?

I'M SURE HE'S ALIVE AND RUNNING AWAY RIGHT NOW...

USHIGOROU IS QUICK-WITTED.

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THE LIFE OF A PEASANT?

AND SO WHAT?

SFX: turn, step

SFX: step

THAT'S ENOUGH REASON TO RETURN,

ISN'T IT?

I CAN'T JUST ABANDON MY POST.

BUT...

IS IT MY DUTY AS THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD'S LEADER?

HOLDING A GRUDGE.

BESIDES, I'M THE SORT OF PERSON WHO ABHORS...

I'LL BE AT THE MANOR.

ONCE I GO THROUGH THOSE TREES,

LET'S FINISH THIS.

SFX: step

SFX
STEP

SFX
PWOUF
SHIRP



FIGHT ME, YOU BAS-TARD!

SHI-MADA!

USHI-GOROU...

.....

SHIMADA!

FIGHT ME, YOU BAS-TARD!

CHAPTER 38: FISHERMAN'S ADVANTAGE

USHI-GOROU.

.....

...

SO YOU'RE ALIVE...

'COURSE I'M ALIVE, IDIOT!

I KNOW EVERYTHIN' YOU'VE DONE!

DON'T ACT DUMB!

I DON'T...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YOUR PLAN WAS TO GET US ALL KILLED!

FROM THE BEGINNIN', YOU NEVER HAD THE INTENTION OF MAKIN' US SAMURAI!

YOU AND WADA KILLED HIM, THEN HAD YOKICHI TAKE CARE OF THE BODY!

RIHACHI NEVER RETURNED TO HIS VILLAGE!

WHAT?

DAMN RIGHT, STOP PLAYIN' DUMB!

YOU MEAN THE ONE STRIKE, ONE KILL SQUAD WARRIOR RIHACHI?

RIHACHI...

?

.....

IT MEANS I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.

I SEE.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'?

HUH?

THEN THE PEOPLE AT THE TOP WANT TO ENSURE THAT NOT A SINGLE MAN IS LEFT ALIVE.

IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE,

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

HUH?

ANYWAY, USHI-GOROU,

WELL, IT'S A COMMON STORY. NOT SURPRISING, REALLY...

I'M INTERESTED IN WHO EXACTLY THESE PEOPLE ARE...

W-WHAT WAS THAT?!

BUT YOU'RE JUST A PEASANT AFTER ALL.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS,

WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE EDO IMMEDIATELY, YOU IDIOT?!

IF YOU KNEW THE TRUTH, THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?!

IS EXACTLY WHAT THE ENEMY WANTS YOU TO DO?!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT DAWDLING HERE...

I KNOW THAT, BUT...

I KNOW THAT MUCH...

I-ICHIZOU WANTED TO...

SHU...

S-SH...

SHUT UP!

ICHIZOU?

ICHIZOU'S HERE TOO.

LOOK AT THAT.

Ba-dump

I THOUGHT I SENSED ANOTHER PRESENCE EARLIER. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ICHIZOU...

I SEE.

WILL ONLY RESULT IN YOU JOINING THE FOOLS LIVING AIMLESSLY DOING AS THEY LIKE...

ACTING ON YOUR BELIEFS...

USHI-GOROU, LISTEN CARE-FULLY.

WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'.

I GET YOU...

YOU'RE SO NOISY...

THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION!

BUT...

I SEE...

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN COMMENT ON OTHER PEOPLE'S ACTIONS.

SFX: thud

I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT, USHIGOROU.

VERY WELL.

Clack

I'M SURE YOUR SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED.

DO NOT DISAP-POINT ME.

YOU HAVE CUT DOWN COUNTLESS PEOPLE.

FOLLOW-ING MY ORDERS...

Clack

URGH...

THIS IS THE ONLY PART I ENJOY, AFTER ALL.

CON-SIDERING ALL OF MY DUTIES,

COME AT ME!

DON'T HOLD BACK!

I'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!

HURRY UP AND DO IT, USHIGORO!

SFX: step

I'LL KILL SHIMADA WHILE HIS BACK IS TURNED.

HUFF

HUFF

USHIGOROU'S CHARGE SHOULD COVER THE SOUND OF MY FOOTSTEPS.

SFX: slowly

SFX:
rustle

SFX: Gyaaaaaah, dash

SFX: charge, gyaaah

HERE WE GO!

ALRIGHT!

SFX: leap

HE WANTS TO DEFLECT MY SWORD, DESTROY MY FORM, AND GAIN THE UPPER HAND.

USHI-GOROU'S ACTING AS THE DECOY... HE WON'T BE A MATCH FOR ME, CHARGING HEAD ON LIKE THAT.

SFX: Ooh

HAVING A SHORT SWORD IN THEIR ARSENAL IS SURPRISINGLY TROUBLESOME. IT WOULDN'T BE FATAL, BUT THEY COULD INJURE ME.

SFX: Gyaaaah

SO ICHIZOU'S WIELDING A SHORT SWORD.

Chik

YOU CAN'T WIN LIKE THIS, USHIGOROU.

THEY'RE TRYING TO STRIKE IN UNISON, BUT ICHIZOU'S MOVEMENTS ARE SLUGGISH AND HIS TIMING IS SLIGHTLY OFF.

SFX: Aaah

SFX: Aaah

SFX: Jump

!

WHAT'S THAT?!

SFX: dash

Grin

SFX: Hyaaah

IT'S A TRAP!

I'VE BEEN HAD...

HE PLANNED HIS ATTACK WITH USHI-GOROU TO CUT ME DOWN.

THE PRESENCE I FELT AT THE START WASN'T ICHIZOU, IT WAS THIS GUY.

HE MUST BE A SKILLED ASSASSIN.

HIS FOOTWORK IS SILENT... AND TO MOVE AT THAT SPEED...

AND BEING AN ASSASSIN, I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT.

HE'S LURKING BEHIND USHIGOROU TO KEEP ME FROM READING HIS MOVE-MENTS...

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THE QUESTION IS, HOW WILL THE ASSASSIN REACH ME FROM BEHIND HIM?

HE'LL EXECUTE HIS ATTACK TO COINCIDE WITH USHIGOROU'S.

IT'S AN EXCELLENT PLAN TO KILL ME.

WHICH MEANS HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE TO VAULT OVER USHIGOROU.

HE WON'T MAKE IT IF HE GOES LEFT OR RIGHT... THUS IT WILL HAVE TO BE AN ATTACK FROM ABOVE...

IT'S ANOTHER STORY IF THEY ATTACK AT DIFFER-ENT TIMES THOUGH,

IF HE PULLS IT OFF I WON'T BE ABLE TO COUNTER.

MY ONLY CHANCE...

BUT A SKILLED ASSASSIN WOULDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE LIKE THAT.

AND STOPS HIS CHARGE.

WILL BE WHEN USHIGOROU NOTICES HIM...

A LOWLY PEASANT THAT'S ONLY TRAINED FOR A LITTLE WHILE COULDN'T POSSIBLY DETECT THEIR PRESENCE, BUT...

THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS USHIGOROU IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WEAKNESS OF THIS FOE.

THE ENEMY DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

USHI-GOROU'S INTUITION IS ABOVE AVERAGE.

IF IT'S USHI-GOROU...

HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO NOTICE.

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE USHIGOROU AND ICHIZOU'S ATTACKS AS WELL...

HOWEVER, IT'LL BE HARDER IF HE KNOWS WHAT I'M DOING.

SFX:
Whoosh

SFX: slam

SFX: vault

USHI-
GOROU!

USHI-
GOROU!

WATCH
OUT!

SFX:
Haaaaah



HUH?!

SFX: slide

Click

SFX: shing, whack, step

SFX: slash

ACK!

...!

SFX: spin, step, whoosh

SFX: slash, shing

ACK!

WHAT IS THAT?!

HUH?!

SFX: bang, crash

GAH!

USHI-GOROU!

MOVE IT!

SFX: cling, swish, whoosh

SFX: whack, step, spit

Tchik

SFX: spin, crack

SFX: shing

SFX:
wham

CHAPTER 38: ALONE


Clatter



HEHE...

HE...

HEHE...

YOUR QUICK THINKING AND THE WAY YOU SHIFTED YOUR GRIP HAD ME MESMERIZED; I COULD WATCH THAT ALL DAY.

AS EXPECTED OF LORD SHIMADA... SUCH... SPLENDID TECH-NIQUE.

AS TO WHY YOU DIDN'T CUT DOWN THE PEASANTS.

BUT I FIND IT QUITE INCOMPRE-HENSIBLE...

YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME WITHOUT GETTING INJURED.

IF YOU HAD CRUSHED THOSE TWO AND CHAL-LENGED ME RIGHT AWAY...

TO GO SO FAR AS TO TRADE BLOWS TO STAB ME WHEN I'LL JUST BE RE-PLACED BY SOMEONE ELSE.

IN DOING SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO TAKE MY COUNTER-ATTACK.

HEHE!

HEHEHE!

HE!

IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW.

I WOULD NOT BE SATIS-FIED IF I COULDN'T FINISH YOU OFF.

EVEN IN HELL, I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS...

TO ALLOW ME, ONE WHO ISN'T EVEN WORTHY OF BEING GIVEN A NAME SUCH AN HONOR...

SFX: cough

SFX: splurt, shing, step

SFX: splash

H!

SFX: grip

SFX: clatter

SHI-

SHIMADA!

SFX: stagger

LORD... SHIMADA!

SFX: Thud

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!

W-WHAT THE...

HEY ICHIZOU!

LET'S CARRY HIM TO THE DOCTOR QUICKLY!

PLEASE HANG ON, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

LORD SHIMADA!

I WON'T LAST LONG.

THERE WAS POISON COATING THE ASSASSIN'S SWORD.

HUH?

IT'S NO USE.

STOP THAT.

YOU CAN'T JUST DROP DEAD HERE!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?!

W-

YOU GOTTA STAY WITH US UNTIL THE END!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WRAPPED US UP IN ALL OF THIS!

WHAT ARE WE S'POSED TO DO FROM HERE?!

DON'T "WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'" ME! YOU'RE THE SQUAD LEADER!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THROW AWAY YOUR SWORD.

IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, THEN...

WHAT DO WE DO?!

ANSWER ME!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

IT'S NO MORE THAN TRASH.

HAVING A SWORD WON'T HELP YOU AGAINST ANYONE.

IT'S NOT ONLY WARS THAT WILL CHANGE. EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR WORLD WILL.

NOT ONLY THAT...

FUTURE BATTLES WILL CHANGE ON A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL.

FROM NOW ON, WARS WILL NO LONGER NEED SWORDS.

SUCH SOCIAL POSITIONS WILL NO LONGER EXIST.

FROM NOW ON, THINGS LIKE PEAS-ANTS AND SAMURAI...

...

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

ARE...

WHETHER OR NOT THE SATSUMA WIN, THE OUTCOME WILL BE THE SAME.

THERE'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE FROM FOREIGN POWERS.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT CAN HAPPEN!

IGNORANT PEASANTS LIKE YOUR-SELVES JUST WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND.

THE ERA WHERE YOU CAN MINDLESSLY TILL THE LAND AND PAY YOUR TAXES WILL BE OVER.

SIMPLY HOLDING A SWORD NO LONGER COMMANDS RESPECT AND DIGNITY.

PEOPLE WILL CRUSH OTHERS UNDERFOOT, REGARDLESS OF APPEARANCE OR STATURE.

FROM NOW ON, ONLY THE SHREWD AND CUNNING WILL REAP THE BENEFITS.

STOP SPOUTIN' LIES!

NO WAY AM I BELIEVIN' THAT CROCK OF SHIT!

ICHI-ZOU...

THE ONLY THING THIS COUNTRY WILL BE DOING IS ENGAGING IN WAR!

THAT WILL END THESE 300 YEARS OF OUR HAPPY-GO-LUCKY ATTITUDE.

ALL OF THIS WILL LEAD TO A WAR...

YOU...!

IT'LL BE UP TO YOU TO CONFIRM IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

IT MATTERS NOT WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT.

WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT SORT OF SHIT!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW!

IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY ALL OF THAT STUFF. NOW!

AT THIS RATE WE'LL END UP GETTING WIPED OUT!

I'M SURE THERE'LL BE MORE ENEMIES LIKE THAT LAST ONE...

BRING YOUR FACE CLOSER.

I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

SFX: cough, gag

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

LORD SHIMA-DA.

IT'S USHI-GOROU.

OH.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'RE LIFTING THAT STONE...

.....

I SEE.

WHY DID YOU SAVE US?

...WHAT?

CAN I ASK YOU ONE THING?

LORD SHIMADA.

THAT'S WHAT THAT GUY SAID ANYWAY...

IF YOU JUST KILLED US YOU COULD'VE EASILY TAKEN DOWN THE ENEMY...

I SIMPLY FOLLOWED THAT.

MY BODY MOVED ON ITS OWN.

YEAH... HE DID, DIDN'T HE...

DON'T DWELL ON IT.

THE ENEMY DIED AND I WAS IN-JURED.

THAT'S IT. IT'S UN-AVOID-ABLE.

THE WAY OF THE SWORD AND THE WAYS OF WAR ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

OF COURSE.

WAS WHAT YOU DID RIGHT...?

SFX: tweet, tweet tweet

SFX: tweet, stand

USHI-GOROU, MOVE.

I CAN'T SEE THE SKY.

CAN YOU SEE THE SKY NOW?

IS THIS OKAY?

I CAN'T REMEMBER IT...

DAMN...

WHAT CAN'T YOU REMEM-BER?

WHAT, SIR?

SFX: tweet... tweet tweet

...FACE.

MY WIFE'S...

LOOO SHIMA-DA.

SFX: tweets

SFX: tweet...

SHIMA-DAAA!!!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SFX: splash

ICHIZOUUU!!!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?!!!

C-CAN'T YOU SEE?

IT'S SEPPUKU.

SFX: grind x2

DON'T MOVE ME YOU IDIOT!

OWAW AWAW!

WHY WOULD YOU?!

W-

W-

W-

SFX: tug

I'LL DIE AS A SAMURAI!

I-IF I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAY...

SUCH A STORY!

I WON'T BELIEVE...

THERE'LL BE NO MORE SAMURAI OR PEASANTS!

YOU HEARD WHAT SHIMADA WAS SAYIN'!

W-WHAT WAS THAT?!

YOU SAID SO YOURSELF!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'? SHIMADA DOESN'T JUST SPOUT SHIT!

SOMETHIN' THAT DOESN'T CHANGE SO EASILY?!

DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S...

THAT'S WHY I BECAME A SAMURAI!

IF THE WORLD WON'T CHANGE, THEN I HAVE TO!

URGH!

I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT!

TO LOSE MY STATUS AFTER ALL THAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH...

IF I'M GOING TO DIE A DOG'S DEATH THEN I'LL SLIT MY OWN STOMACH!

EITHER WAY, I WON'T LAST LONG WITH THIS WOUND.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

C-CUT MY HEAD OFF!

USHI-GOROU!

OWAWAWAW, DON'T MOVE ME!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

HEY... THINK ABOUT IT, I'LL APOLOGIZE!

WAIT...

WAIT A MINUTE...

SFX: shake x3

DON'T DIE ON ME!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

S-STOP IT...

PLEASE, ICHIZOU!

GR... AH!

ICHIZOUUU!

AH!

SFX: twitch x2, cough

ALONE AT ALL...

Y- YOU'RE NOT...

SFX: wheeze x2

ICHIZOU!

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!

THE PROS- TITUTE... SONO.

SHE THINKS OF YOU LIKE...

YOU HAVE... SONO.

HUH?

THERE'S NOTHING MORE... I'M NOT LYING!

B-BESIDES, WE JUST HAD A FIGHT!

SHE'S... JUST A REGULAR PROSTITUTE!

DO AT LEAST ONE GOOD THING IN YOUR LIFE.

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES, YOU IDIOT...

ONE GOOD THING...

PLEASE.

HELP ME...

ICHI-ZOU...

SO PLEASE...

USHI-GOROU...

PL... SE...

LET... LET ME BE FREE...

THE AFTER-LIFE...

PLEASE...

IT HURTS... PLEASE DO SOME-THING.

AHHHH!

AHHHH!

SFX:
step x2,
click

I'LL BEHEAD YOU!

RAISE YOUR NECK!

ICHI-ZOUUU! YOUR NECK!

IF YOU DON'T HELP YOU OUT!

I CAN'T LIFT YOUR BODY UP MORE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?!

LIFT YOUR-

YOU CALL YOURSELF A SAMURAI?!

ドンドコ

WAAAAAH!

SFX: clang

SFX:
shudder x2

SFX:
bend

SHIT.

I'M SUCH A COWARD...

TL/N: The chapter name is a reference to the 'Hyakki Yagyou', or 'Night Parade of One Hundred Demons'; an annual march of Demons in Japanese folklore.

CHAPTER 40: A PARADE OF MONSTERS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT



SFX
Howling
wind

SFX: mutter x4, whoooosh

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO I'M NOT ALONE AT ALL. IF YOU REALLY LOOK AT IT I'M NOT EVEN HURT AND THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN BEAT ME AT STONE LIFTING.

WITH MY LEGS I'LL GET THERE IN NO TIME ALL I GOTTA DO IS FETCH HER FROM IMURA'S.

I'LL GO TO THE CITY RIGHT NOW AND PICK HER UP.

THAT'S RIGHT I'M NOT ALONE I HAVE SONO JUST LIKE ICHIZOU SAID

SFX: mutter x3

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SFX:
splash

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

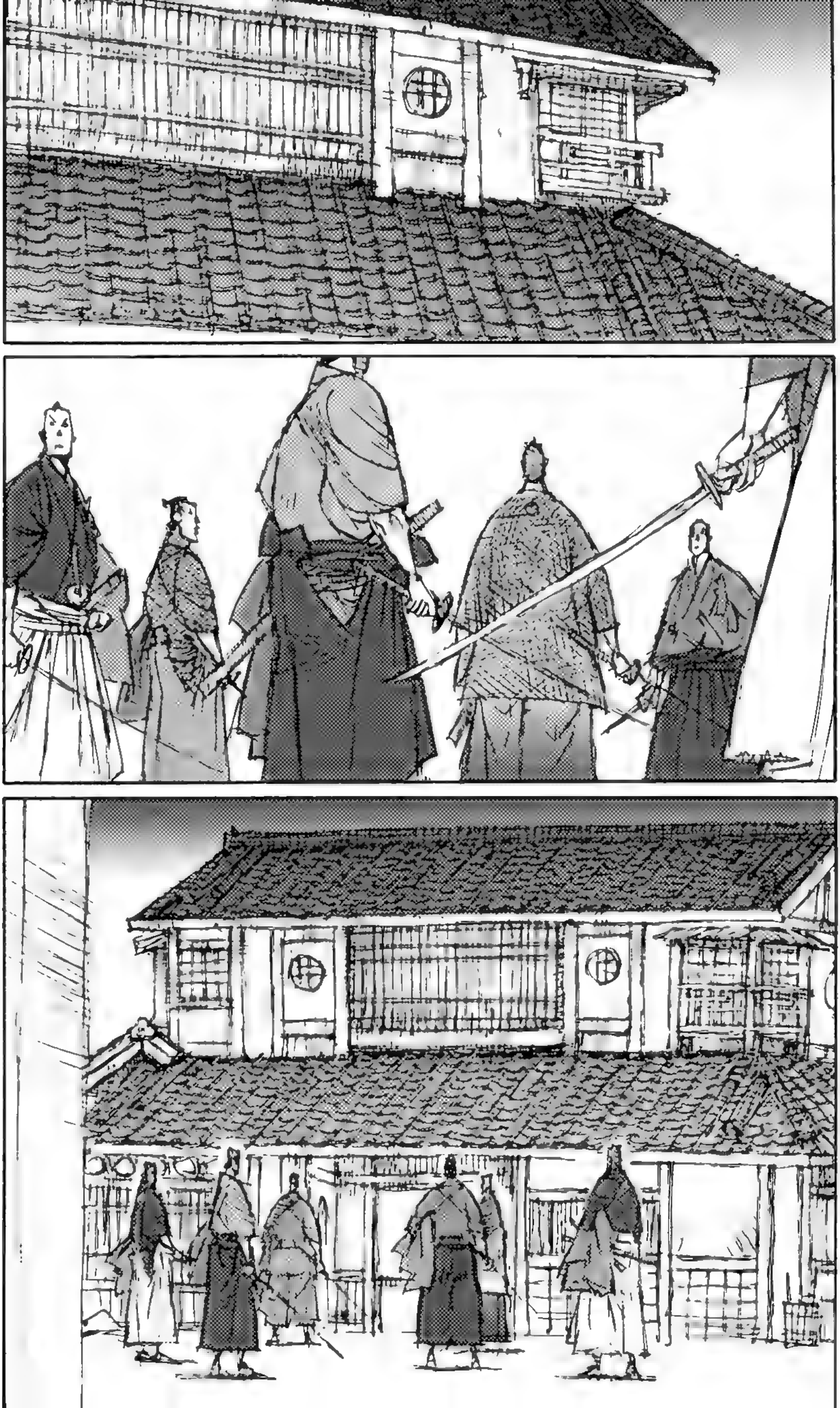
WHY'S NO ONE HERE?

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY...

ANYONE HERE?!

HEEEEEY!

SFX:
here x2
(echoes)



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SAMURAI IN FRONT OF IMURA'S?

W...

THEY'RE ALL SATSUMA?

NOT ONLY THAT...

ALMOST TWO HOURS HAVE GONE BY!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

LORD MASU-MITSU!

THIS MATTER NEEDS TO BE DISCREETLY DEALT WITH!

THAT'S NOT AN OPTION!

PLEASE ASK THE LEADER TO SEND MORE MEN!

THE FIVE PEOPLE WHO WENT INSIDE ARE NO LONGER ALIVE!

I WILL NOT STAND IDLE WHILE OUR ALLIES ARE FORCED TO THROW AWAY THEIR LIVES IN THE NAME OF HONOUR!

I WILL NOT!

SHUT UP!

IT IS PLAIN AS DAY THAT WE CANNOT HANDLE THIS!

IT'S THE MADMAN, IMUTA!

WE OUGHT TO JUST LEAVE HIM BE!

TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T FATHOM THE REASON FOR US TO RISK OUR LIVES SO!

IMU... TA?!

HUH?!

SFX: crash, bang, smash

Bump

SFX: tumble, roll

WHO'S THAT...?

HUH?

DAMN IT!

D-

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?!

HEY, YOU!

WHY WERE YOU WATCHING US?!

A PEAS-ANT?

I-I'M JUST A NORMAL PEASANT!

N-N-NOTHING!

I NEED TO TALK TO ONE OF THE GIRLS... *YOU KNOW...*

I HAD BUSI—

COME OVER HERE.

HEY, PEASANT.

HERE! NOW!

STOP TAKING YOUR SWEET ASS TIME!

GET OVER HERE!

W- WHY...?

HUH?

SFX: step, clatter

WAH!

I SAID TO GET OVER HERE NOW!

SFX: flee

HEY!

AH!!

COME BACK HERE!

WAIT, YOU DAMN PEASANT!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

I CAN'T SEE SONO LIKE THIS!

WHY IS MIUTA IN THE WHORE HOUSE?!

GOD DAMN IT!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING...

DAMN IT...

IT'S NOT SAFE BEIN' OUT THERE.

WHAT DID YOU...?

HUH?

Shut

SFX: crash, clang

AHHH!

SAVE ME...!

J-SOMEONE!

SFX: splash

SFX: thunk

HAAAW'S THAT?!

SFX: splurt

REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAD!

LISTEN UP! WE'RE THE...

IDIOT!

EVERYONE KNOWS THIEVES ARE MEANT TO COME OUT AT NIGHT!

YESTERDAY WE SAID WE'RE RAIDERS 'N THIEVES!

AH?

YOU IDIOT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'? THAT'S WRONG!

WE'RE THE REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAD!

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, WE AIN'T THIEVES...

IN THE DAY, WE'RE THE REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAD!

AT NIGHT, WE'RE THIEVES!

THE REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAD ARE GOIN' INTO BATTLE!

WE'RE THE REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAD!

SFX: crack, bang, gyaaaaa

NOOOOO!

DON'T YOU DARE MOCK US!

BRING OUT ALL YOUR MONEY!

SFX: whack, Ahhhh

STOP IT...

S-...

STOP !!!T!!!

HUH?

AH...

SWORD...

HAH!

WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

SFX: gather, swing

HEY, HEY!

URGH...

I'LL SHANK YA!

COME ON THEN, YA BITCH!

YES SIR!!!

SIR!!!

SFX: crumple

SIIIR!

SAY SOME-THIN', PEAS-ANT.

NO WONDER HE SMELLS.

HE'S A PEASANT.

WHO'S HE...?

YES SIIIR.

SIIIR.

WE'RE NOT GONNA KILL HIM?

IF WE DON'T HURRY THE GUARDS'LL CATCH US.

SFX: Gyahaha haha

HE HE HE!

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT!

WHO CARES IF WE KILL A PEASANT?

MY PRIZED SWORD WOULD END UP STINKIN' LIKE SHIT.

ptooo

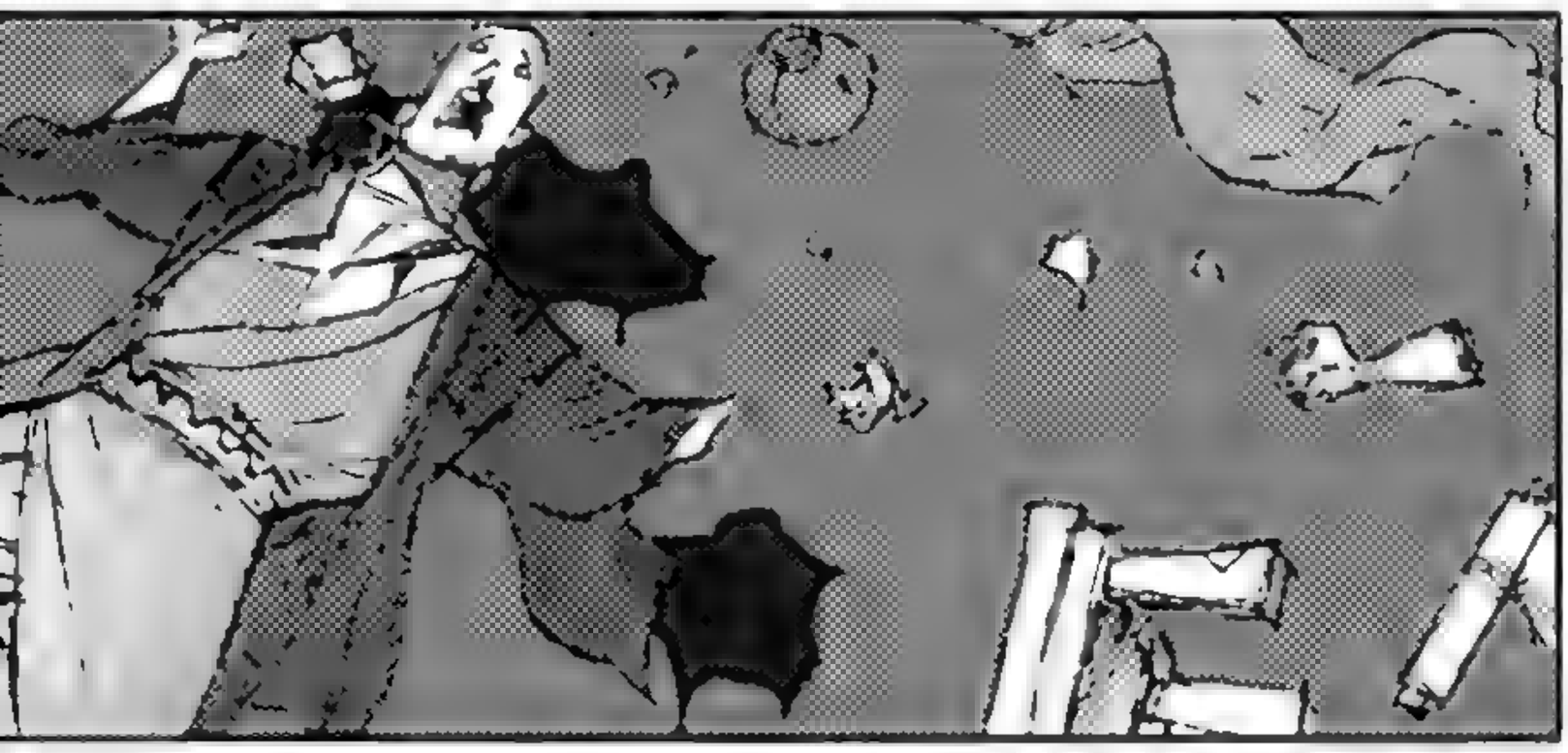
A COWARD LIKE YOU!

THERE'S NO POINT IN KILLIN'...

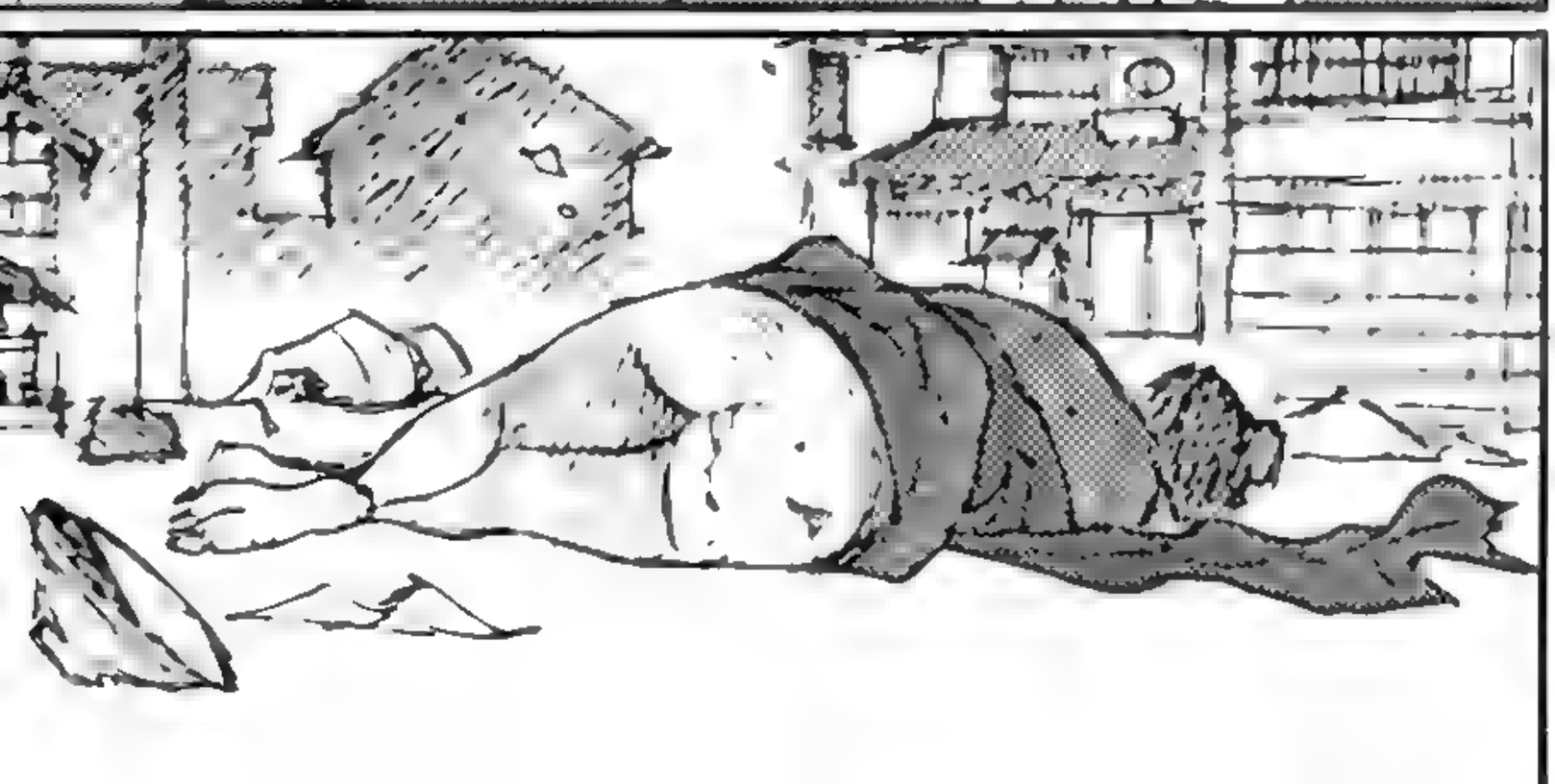
SFX: clack

GYA HA HA HA

WE'RE THE REFORMIN' SHIT SQUAAAD,









SFX
howl
meow

SFX:
Tweet x2

Drip

Drip

URGH

HEUKH...!

GUH...

UGH...
GH!
UHH...
URGH...
HELP
KH...!

HM?

THAT PEASANT FROM BEFORE...

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP WE'LL KILL YOU!

WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW, WAIT THERE!

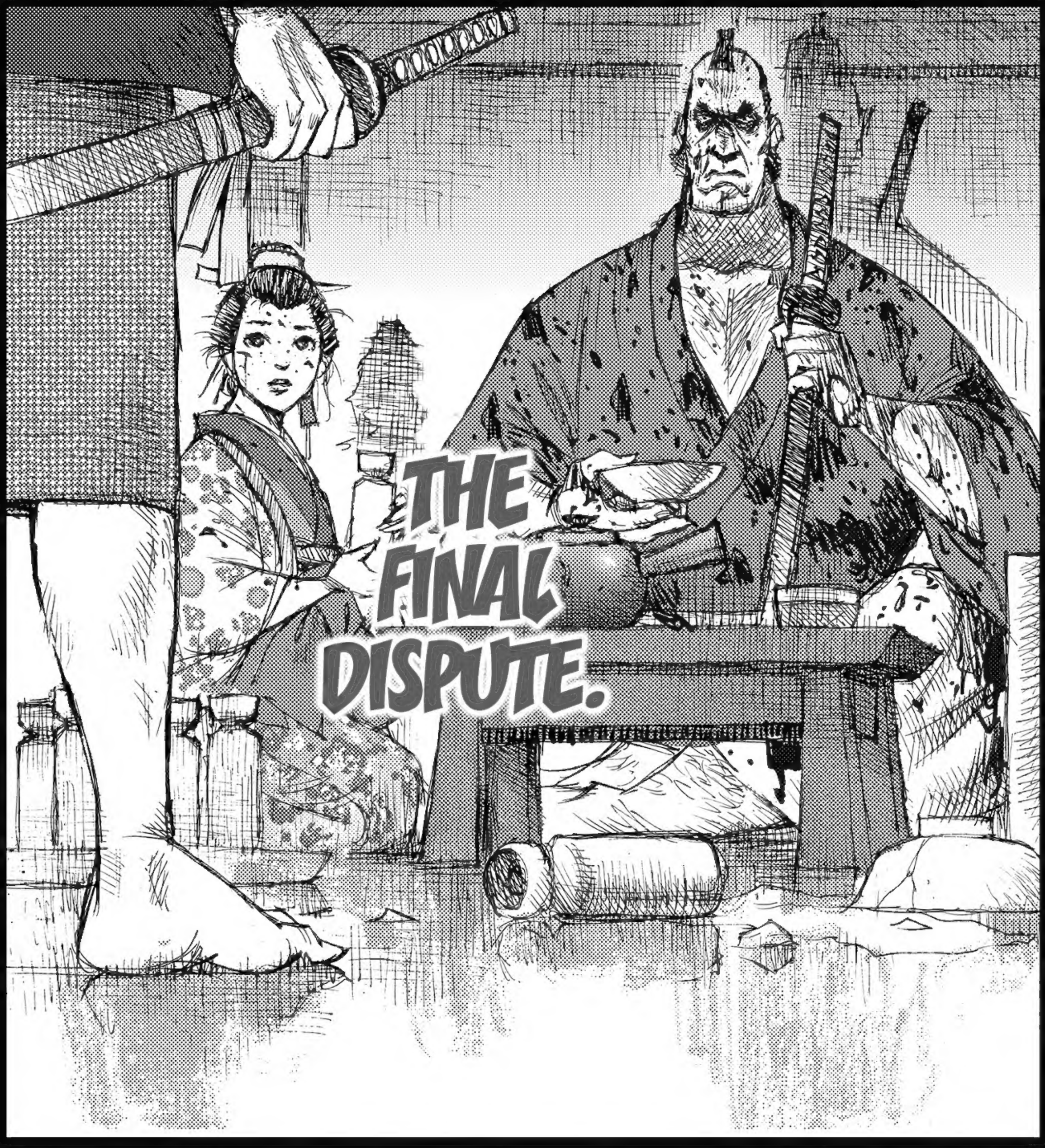
HALT!

WHAT THE...!

THEN HURRY UP AND KILL ME.

I HAVE BUSINESS WITH A GIRL IN THAT WHORE HOUSE.

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN...



Ushigorou, the One Strike One Kill Squad's last survivor. He's become one of the wandering targets in Edo. The despairing man makes his way to Imura's store where his beloved Sono awaits...
The final volume, Volume 7, out next winter!!!

「コミック乱ツインズ」
（毎月13日発売）
絶賛連載中!!

To be continued



いちげき 6

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